

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 13 and 25 have been amended. New claim 26 has been added. Claims 2-3 and 10-12 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-9 and 13-26 are now pending in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In response, this claim has been amended to change "or" to "and" where indicated by the Examiner, and claim 25 has been further amended to clarify the subject matter. Claim 25 is now believed to be in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11, 14-16, 18 and 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over the non-patent publication by Syroid et al., entitled "Outlook 2000 in a Nutshell" (hereafter "Outlook"). Claim 4 stands rejected over Outlook in view of Hu, U.S. Patent No. 6,115,241, (hereafter "Hu"). Claims 5-6, 8, 17 and 19 stand rejected over Outlook in view of the Examiner's Official Notice.

Claims 10 and 12 stand rejected over Outlook in view of Cunningham, U.S. Patent No. 6,208,436, (hereafter "Cunningham"). Claim 13 stands rejected over Outlook in view of Cunningham, and further in view of the Examiner's Official Notice. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections for the following reasons:

Claim 1

The present invention, as claimed in amended claim 1, includes a data entry interface supporting direct entry of data in multiple formats including word processing format, spreadsheet format, image format, video format and audio format. Further, the direct entry allows the data entered to be organized and stored into one or more of a plurality of categories displayed on a menu bar of the data entry interface, the plurality of categories each including dropdown menus displaying subcategories for further organizing the data by direct entry into one or more of the subcategories.

Data in the multiple formats is directly entered into the data entry interface by entering into at least one of the subcategories by selecting the subcategory from one of the dropdown menus and directly entering the data in the multiple formats into the at least one subcategory. The single personal data file created from the data entered and organized is stored as a single portable file.

Outlook, on the other hand, allows a user to directly enter and categorize personal data only by using a "word-processing" format, i.e., by using the computer keyboard to enter alphanumeric information into the contact or calendar features of Outlook. Outlook makes no provision for directly entering personal data in a spreadsheet format, image format, audio, or video format. Thus, the present invention allows direct entry of the personal data in multiple formats and it does not require different software programs for the various formats.

Further, the data entry interface of the invention supports the entry of the data in multiple formats directly into subcategories for immediate classification of the data. The subcategories are selected from a menu bar using dropdown menus from a plurality of categories. Thus, the invention enables direct entry and categorization of personal data in the multiple formats.

The Office Action asserts that because Outlook enables MIME messages to be received in e-mail that this teaches entry of data in multiple formats, including image, audio and video. Applicants respectfully disagree. MIME is a specification by which such multimedia data is contained within a message received, such as by e-mail. Following receipt of a message in the MIME standard, any multimedia message contained therein is only accessible using a separate program. Outlook itself does not contain the capability to display or otherwise open, manipulate or categorize the multimedia data contained in the MIME message. Further, the receipt of a MIME message does not meet Applicants' limitation of "data in said multiple

formats is directly entered into said data entry interface by selecting at least one said subcategory from among said subcategories by selecting said at least one subcategory from one of said dropdown menus and directly entering the data in the multiple formats into said at least one subcategory”, since a multimedia message contained within a MIME message must be further manipulated with a different program to be manipulated or viewed.

The Office Action further asserts that rules may be set up so that arriving e-mail is automatically sent to predetermined categories. Applicants respectfully disagree. The use of rules is not direct entry of data in multiple formats “by selecting at least one said subcategory from among said subcategories by selecting said at least one subcategory from one of said dropdown menus”. Instead, the use of rules to categorize received e-mail messages only places these messages into separate folders and does not enable direct entry of personal data into selectable subcategories using a data entry interface for entering data in multiple formats, i.e., including spreadsheet format, image format, video format and audio format.

Accordingly, because Outlook does not allow direct entry of data in multiple formats, and because Outlook does not allow the entering of data in multiple formats directly into any of a plurality of subcategories chosen from dropdown menus, the invention is an improvement over Outlook which supports only a single format for entry of personal information. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Outlook and the other art of record.

Independent Claim 25

Independent claim 25 includes that data is entered in multiple formats including data entered using a keyboard or and data extracted by the software from scanned documents containing alphanumeric information or graphic information. Outlook does not support entry of data by use of a scanner. Combining Hu with Outlook still does not teach this feature, since Hu, at best, teaches scanning an image to a host computer (i.e., downloading an image file). Hu does not teach or suggest scanning an image file directly into a data entry interface, as in the present invention. Further, Hu does not teach or suggest that the data in multiple formats is directly entered into the data entry interface by selecting at least one subcategory from among the subcategories by selecting said at least one subcategory from one of the dropdown menus and directly entering the data in the multiple formats into the at least one subcategory. Outlook teaches only a calendar and contact software for personal information, and Hu only teaches scanning of documents. Thus, even if Hu is combined with Outlook, this still does not teach or suggest scanning personal information directly into a data entry interface for categorization.

Additionally, claim 25 includes that the personal data is accessed and viewed using the software package to view the personal data in multiple viewing formats including lists, tables, graphs, and charts created by said software by automatically organizing said personal data. Outlook provides no teachings regarding automatic

creation of lists, tables, graphs and charts created by automatically organizing personal data directly entered in multiple formats using a data entry interface. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 25 is patentable over Outlook and the other art of record for this reason as well.

Independent Claim 26

Independent claim 26 includes limitations similar to claim 1 and claim 25, and is patentable under a similar rationale. Additionally, claim 26 includes that the personal data is accessed and viewed using said software package to view the personal data in multiple viewing formats including any of word processing format, spreadsheet format, image format, audio format or video format by selecting a particular said subcategory. The Office Action asserts at page 4 that Outlook has navigation tools that provide for management of data in word processing and image format, citing pages 129 and 160 of Outlook. However, Applicants have reviewed these pages and found no teaching or suggestion of displaying personal data in multiple viewing formats including any of spreadsheet format, image format, audio format or video format. Rather, Outlook only teaches viewing data in a word processing format or calendar format. Accordingly, claim 26 is additionally patentable over Outlook for this limitation.

Claim 4

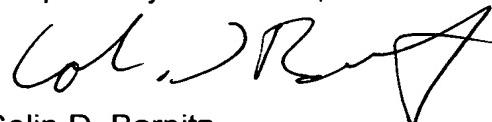
Amended claim 4 includes that the data is scanned directly into the data entry interface, and personal data in alphanumeric form is extracted by the software from the data entered by scanning. This neither taught nor suggested by Outlook, Hu or the other art of record. Outlook teaches only a calendar and contact software for personal information, and Hu only teaches scanning of documents. Thus, even if Hu is combined with Outlook, this still does not teach or suggest extracting personal data in alphanumeric form from the scanned data. Accordingly, claim 4 is allowable.

Additionally, the claims not discussed above are directed to additional patentable features of the invention, and are allowable at least because they depend from allowable base claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


Colin D. Barnitz
Registration No. 35,061

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR and BRUNDIDGE, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
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